

NIS COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 155
6 October 1953

1. The following were present:

Mr. Clinton	State
Mr. Kain	State
Lt. Col. Pack	Army
Major Kent	Army
Capt. Norgaard	Navy
Lt. Madden	Navy
Lt. Col. Rush	Air Force
25X1A9a	Air Force
[REDACTED]	CIA
	CIA (Chairman)

DOCUMENT NO. _____
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CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 2010
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE 6 NOV 1988 REVIEWER: 018645

2. Commendation on Air Attache Report

25X1X1 The Chairman informed the members that a recent report submitted [REDACTED] showed such outstanding interest in improving the photographic coverage of the NIS that he was bringing it to the attention of the Committee. Exerpts from the report were read, which, in essence, outlined a plan for incorporating a program of collecting photographs for NIS use with that office's regularly scheduled road and air trips. The first of a series of photographs obtained under this program were submitted with the report, and guidance was requested as to the types of photographs desired so that collection efforts of that office could be directed towards obtaining the most wanted coverage. The Chairman said [REDACTED] was to be commended for voluntarily undertaking to provide better photographic material for use in the NIS, and suggested that the members look into the possibility of having [REDACTED] in other areas undertake similar collection programs.

3. Department of Commerce Requirements for NIS

A letter from the Department of Commerce concerning the need of that Department for the continued receipt of NIS was presented to the Committee for consideration. This letter was submitted in response to a request that non-IAC agencies show justification for the continued receipt of NIS on a "need-to-know" basis. (Refer to NIS Committee Meeting Nos. 150 and 154, dated 12 May 1953 and 16 September 1953, respectively.)

Members were requested to advise the Chairman if their respective agencies had any questions concerning this letter of justification.

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4. Survey on Use of NIS

The Chairman referred to the proposed questionnaire to be used in connection with the survey of user reaction to the NIS Program, and said that he questioned that a form requiring only yes or no answers such as the one under consideration would provide the information needed for a true appraisal of this program. He pointed out that the fundamental purpose of the NIS Program is to provide the basic intelligence that would be required by this Government in the event of war, and the questionnaire should, therefore, have as its primary objective the obtaining of statements as to the anticipated value of the NIS in such an emergency, and secondarily, expressions as to its present value to government departments and agencies. He referred to the user survey of JANIS conducted in 1947, and commented that the form of questions used in that survey brought in some very meaningful comments. He suggested that a similar type of questionnaire be used in the NIS survey. The members indicated general agreement with the proposed change, and the Chairman undertook to draft a questionnaire of the type he considered most suitable and submit copies to the members at the next meeting.

5. Proposed Revision of Outline Guide for Supplement IV

The Chairman stated that D/B had received and examined the proposed revisions of the Outline and Outline Guide for Supplement IV (Urban Areas) which had been submitted by the Corps of Engineers. He stated that they appeared to be an improvement over the present outlines but did not provide coverage for all of the items in the list submitted by the Geographic Division (CIA), which reflected the coverage desired by the CIA component having the requirement for these Urban Area studies. The outlines had, therefore, been referred to the Geographic Division for review, and further consideration of the proposals would be deferred until their comments had been received. He requested the members to study the copies of these proposed revisions which they had received from Army, and be prepared to act upon them when the matter is again brought up in Committee, which is expected to be at the next meeting.

6. Dissemination of NIS Sections 23 25X1X7

The Committee approved the request [REDACTED] that NIS Sections 23 (Weather and Climate) on 18 NIS areas be made available to them. (Refer to NIS Committee Meeting No. 154, 16 September 1953.)

7. NIS Chapter I (Brief)

The Chairman stressed the importance of NIS Chapter I (Brief), and the need for proceeding with the production of this chapter on NIS Area 33 (Iran) with the least possible delay. He pointed out that production was far enough advanced now on at least ten of the NIS areas to permit production of Chapters I, and he expressed the opinion that this production should be given the highest priority, and the Committee agreed.

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The Chairman stated that in order to expedite production of Chapter I on Iran he had set up a task group in D/B to prepare drafts of Sections 10 and 11, which will be submitted to the Committee for comment. He asked the members for comment with respect to the production of Sections 12 thru 18, for which their respective agencies have production responsibility. All members agreed to proceed immediately with this production, and a cut-off date of 1 October 1953 was set for the information to be presented in these elements. Further, it was agreed that these contributions would be submitted to D/B on, or before 6 December 1953.

Further discussion was held with reference to the graphics for Chapter I, and it was agreed that other problems which might develop during the production of this first Chapter I will be brought up for Committee consideration from time to time as they arise.

8. NIS Standard Instructions

The Chairman informed the Committee that the demand for complete editions of the NIS Standard Instructions has been greater than was anticipated. He requested that the members examine their supply to determine whether or not they have any excess copies which might be recalled if necessary, and advise him of their respective positions as soon as possible.

9. Dissemination of Quarterly Report

The Chairman asked the members for comments with regard to the Quarterly Report. He noted that this report is being more widely distributed than it had been in the past, and raised a question as to whether a more simplified report with a lower classification would be desirable.

Following discussion it was agreed that the present form of this report would be retained. However, the Committee approved downgrading the present report from "Secret" to "Confidential", and restricting it to "U.S. Officials Only". It was also agreed that these reports would carry a destruction notice stating, "This supersedes all previous issues of the Quarterly Report, which may be destroyed".

10. Control Warning

The Chairman referred to the control warning regarding "Comments on Principal Sources" which is now being included in all NIS Sections which are not controlled in their entirety. He called attention to the fact that all previously published Sections contain the same controlled subsection without a warning notice. He asked the members to take under study the question of whether or not some warning notice should be sent out to users with respect to these previously published Sections, and be prepared to discuss the matter further at the next meeting.

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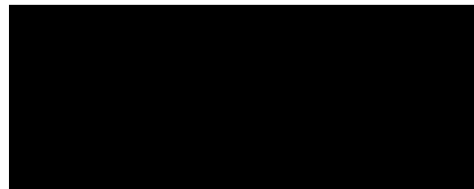
11. Treatment of Fissionable Material

The State member said that a problem had arisen in connection with the treatment of fissionable material in Section 63 for NIS Area No. 5 (Belgium). The information involved is "Top Secret" whereas the balance of the section is "Confidential", and the question has been raised as to whether this information should be omitted from Section 63 in order to retain the lower classification, and give primary treatment of fissionable material for this area in Chapter VII (Scientific).

The Chairman agreed to discuss the matter with the Chapter VII Coordinator, and present recommendations to the Committee at a later meeting.

12. The next meeting will be held at the call of the Chairman.

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